



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**The Rt Hon George Eustice MP**  
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**Dame Glenys Stacey**

Chair, Office for Environmental Protection  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
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20 July 2022

Dear Dame Glenys,

Thank you for your letter of 11 May 2022 providing OEP's advice on proposals for reform of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and observations on the Green Paper. Your overarching advice, observations and thirteen recommendations provide a useful framework that will be valuable in informing future policy thinking.

As you note, there is a pressing need to improve and strengthen our designated sites network and to protect and recover nature at pace to meet our commitments, and in particular, the species abundance target. Any proposals taken forward for implementation will have this clear purpose in mind.

In order to aid policy development, policy officials will be in touch regarding the detail of your proposals as required. I also note your offer to consider additional detail and provide further advice as thinking develops.

**RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP**